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A.A.A. AND FOREIGN TRADE

Foreign trade has been a large factor in developing American agriculture. It is still of great importance. The attached material presents a number of foreign trade facts of importance to farmers and others in their study and appraisal of the A.A.A. farm program. Highlights of this information follow:

During a long period of years, industry's share of total exports has increased, agriculture's share has decreased. (I, page 1.)

Europe absorbs two-thirds of agriculture's exports, only one-third of industry's. Consequently, European dislocations have been especially severe on American agriculture. (II, page 1.)

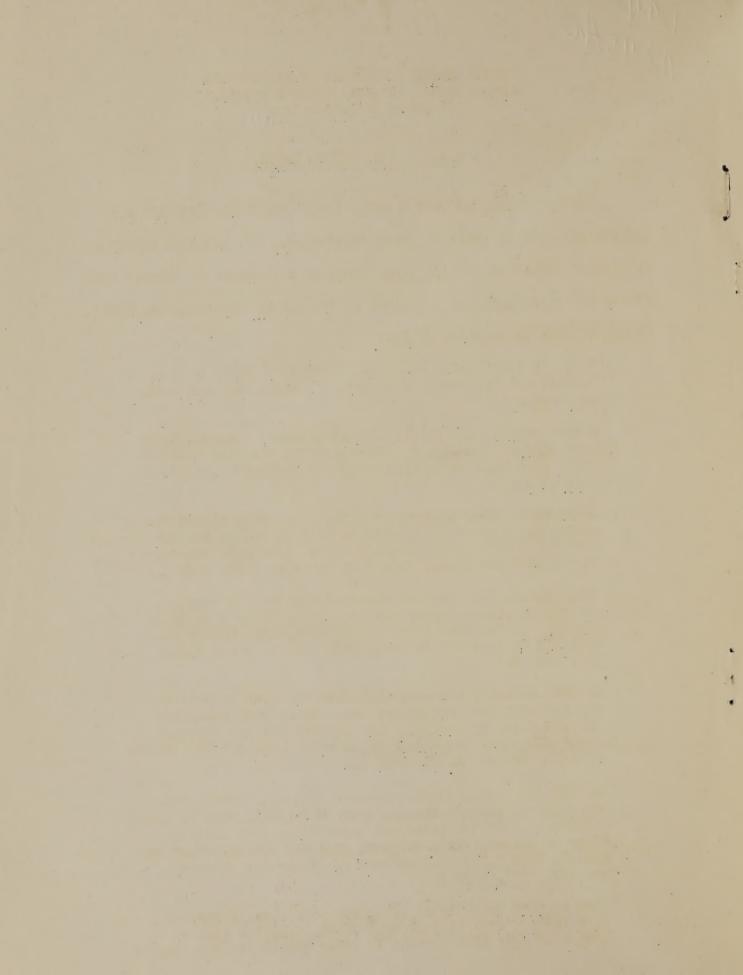
About four acres are producing for the export market for every acre that might be used to produce things now imported. Farm exports are about four times more important to the American farmer than farm imports. (III, page 2.)

Farm exports have greatly exceeded competitive farm imports in recent years, despite rising trade barriers abroad. At the same time, competitive farm imports have declined in relation to total farm imports since 1936. (IV, page 3.)

Imports normally increase with American farm prosperity, and decrease when prices are low. Aside from temporary increases due to drought, farm imports have not changed materially from the normal trend to be expected as a result of price movements, (V, page 4.)

In 1938 the United States exported tobacco, cotton, rice and wheat in amounts ranging from 34 to 12 percent of total production. Of the principal competitive farm imports, those of cotton, beef, tobacco, wool and cheese ranged in amounts from 1.3 to 7.5 percent of production in this country. (VI, page 4.)

Farm exports to 22 trade agreement countries increased 61.2 percent from 1934-35 to 1937-38, compared with an increase of only 37.9 percent to other countries (VII, page 5.)



A.A.A. AND FOREIGN TRADE

I. FARMER'S SHARE IN EXPORT TRADE DECLINING OVER LONG PERIOD.

Since the beginning of this century, farm exports have dropped from nearly two-thirds of total exports to less than one-fourth of all exports in 1938. In the same period, non-farm exports have risen from about one-third to more than three-fourths of total exports.

TABLE 1. Agricultural Exports and Non-Agricultural Exports as Percentages of Total United States Exports, Years 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1938

Year Beginning July 1	Exports 1/as a Percent- age of Total Exports	age of Total Exports
1900	(Percent) 65.0	(Percent) 35.0 48.9
1910	51.1 40.8 34.2	59.2 65.8
1930 1938 <u>2</u> /	23.7	76.3

^{1/} Excludes forest products and distilled liquors, which are classified as non-agricultural.

Source: U.S.D.A., "Agricultural Statistics, 1939".

II. EUROPEAN DISLOCATIONS CRIPPLE FARM EXPORT MARKETS. In recent years more than two-thirds of U.S. farm exports have been going to Europe, while less than a third of non-farm exports have been going to Europe. Thus agriculture has been hit much harder than industry by European nationalism, drives for self-sufficiency, mounting trade barriers, and finally the dislocations of war.

^{1/} Preliminary.

- III. ACRES NEEDED FOR FARM EXPORTS EXCEED ACREAGE EQUIVALENT OF FARM IMPORTS, FOUR TO ONE. An estimate given in Table 2 shows that farm exports have represented the products of about four times as much acreage as farm imports during the last two decades. In the crop year 1938-39 farm imports were the equivalent of only about 7,564,000 acres, while farm exports represented an equivalent of 28,375,000 acres. To gain the entire farm import market is of far less importance to agriculture than to retain the farm export market. For instance, had there been no foreign trade, no exports and no imports, in 1938-39, American farmers would have lost the market for products from about 20 million acres.
 - TABLE 2. Acreage Equivalents 1/of Principal Agricultural Exports and Imports, Crop Years 1937-38, 1938-39 And Average 1919-20 to 1938-39.

0 37	Equivalent Acres 2/			
Crop Years	Exports 3/	•	Imports 4/	
	(Thousand	s of acres a	t average yields	;)
Average 1919-20				
to 1938-39	42,249		10,455	
1937-38	36,367		8,509	
1938-39 5/	28,375		7,564	

Acreage equivalents are calculated on basis of average yields 1923-32, except for cotton and tobacco, which are on 1932-36 basis, and include allowance for seed, but not for workstock required.

Source: Division of Program Development and Coordination, B.A.E.

^{2/} All figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

^{3/} Shipments to territories included.

^{4/} Includes insular imports of sugar, excludes grain imported for milling in bond and export.

^{5/} Estimated.

IV. AMERICAN FARMER MADE NET GAIN IN FOREIGN TPADE WITHOUT LOSS OF HOME MARKET. The last column in Table 3 shows that farm exports have greatly exceeded competitive farm imports in recent years, in spite of rising trade barriers abroad. Meanwhile that portion of farm imports listed as competitive has declined from 50 percent of total farm imports in 1936 to 49.9 percent in 1938.

TABLE 3. Non-Competitive and Competitive Agricultural Imports,
Percent Competitive of Total Agricultural Imports,
Agricultural Exports and Excess over Competitive
Agricultural Imports, 1924-1938.

Calender Year	Non-Com- petitive Agricultural Imports 1/2/3/	Competi- tive Agri- cultural Imports 1/2/	Percent Competitive Agricultural Imports are of Total Agricultural Imports 1/2/	Exports 4/	cultural Imports
	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Dollars	Percent	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Dollars
1926 1 1927 1 1928 1	,443,440 ,225,368 ,144,520	983,782 1,001,363 972,571 995,600 955,268 1,016,663 700,852 447,067 295,992 365,469 412,819 6/ 588,528 694,890 868,211 476,613	51.5 42.8 40.3 44.8 45.5 45.8 47.7 44.3 44.3 49.9 50.3 6/ 54.9 56.0 55.0 49.9	2,109,705 2,136,031 1,816,592 1,884,600 1,862,988 1,692,774 1,200,710 821,259 662,325 694,399 733,392 747,030 709,477 797,482 827,620	1,125,923 1,134,668 844,021 889,000 907,720 676,111 499,858 374,192 366,333 328,930 320,573 6/ 158,502 14,587 70,729 7/ 351,007

1/ Agricultural imports exclude forest products and distilled liquors but include unmanufactured rubber and similar gums.

3/ Non-competitive agricultural imports comprise such products as coffee, rubber, silk, spices, and tea.

4/ Exports exclude forest products, but include Virgin Islands of the U.S. prior to January 1, 1935.

5/ Re-exports not used in making excess computation.
6/ Imports for consumption beginning Jan. 1, 1934.

7/ Excess of imports. 8/ Preliminary
Source: Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

^{2/} General agricultural imports used through Dec. 31, 1933 except for wool, in which case imports for consumption have been used to show the degree of non-competitiveness.

V. FARM IMPORTS FOLLOW FARM PRICES. Competitive farm imports tend to increase when farm prices are favorable and decrease when farm prices are low. Table 4 shows the correspondence between the trends in farm imports and prices for 15 years.

TABLE 4. Index of Competitive Agricultural Imports and Index of Average Farm Prices, 1924-1938

(1924-29 = 100)				
Year	Competitive Agricultural Imports	Average Farm Prices		
111		07.0		
1924	99.6	97.9		
1925	101.3	106.8		
1926	98.4	. 99.3		
1927	100.8	95.2		
1928	96.6	102.0		
1929	102.9	100.0		
1930	70.9	86.3		
1931	45.2	59.5		
1932	29.9	44.5		
1933	36.9	47.9		
1934	41.8	61.6		
1935	59.6	73.9		
1936	70.3	78.0		
1937	87.8	82.8		
1938	48.2	65.0		

Source: Compiled from published B.A.E. figures.

VI. PRINCIPAL FARM EXPORTS AND IMPORTS IN 1938. In 1938 the United States exported 34 percent of its tobacco, 32 percent of its cotton, 24 percent of its rice, and 12 percent of its wheat production.

Of the principal competitive farm imports, only sugar exceeded domestic production in 1938, while the Unit 1 States imported only 1.3 percent of its cotton lint production, only 4.2 percent of the total slaughter of cattle and calves, only 5.5 percent of tobacco production, only 7.1 percent of wool fibre production, and only 7.5 percent of cheese production in this country.

The most important non-competitive farm imports in 1938 were coffee, rubber, silk, bananas, cocoa or cacao beans, and tea.

VII. U.S. EXPORTS TO ALL TRADE AGREEMENT COUNTRIES BOOSTED. The story of U.S. exports "before" and "after" the trade agreement program is given in Table 5, which shows an increase in our exports to every one of the trade agreement countries from 1934-1935 to 1937-1938. Exports to all trade agreement countries rose by 61.2 percent in this comparison, while exports to non-agreement countries rose by 37.9 percent in the same years.

TABLE 5. U.S. Exports 1/to Trade Agreement Countries, 1934 and 1935 Average Value, 1937 and 1938 Average Value, and

Pe	reent of Incres	se 1937-38	3 over 1934-35.	
; Ef:	fective Date 19	34 & 1935	1937 & 1938	Percent of In-
Trade Agreement : of	Trade : Av	rerage Valu	io Average Value	crease 1937-38
Countries 2/ Ag	reements : (Mil. Dol.)	(Mil. Dol.)	over 1934-35 <u>5/</u>
Cuba	Sept.3,1934	52.7	84.3	59.9
Belgium	May 1, 1935	54.2	86.1	59.1
Haiti	June 3, 1935	3.3	3.9	15.6
Sweden	Aug. 5, 1935	35.6	64.3	80.5
Brazil	Jan. 1, 1936	42.0	65.3	55.5
Canada	Jan. 1, 1936			56.2
Netherlands3/(inc.	Feb. 1, 1936		160.6	114.4
overseas territor				
Switzerland 4/		8.0	10.1	26.0
Honduras	Nar. 2. 1936		5.9	2.0
Columbia	May 20, 1936	21.8	40.0	83.8
	June 15, 1936		7.2	81.2
France (including	o dato ad y			
	June 15, 1936	127.4	164.8	29.4
	Oct. 1, 1936		3.1	24.8
Finland	Nov. 2, 1936		12.1	100.4
El Salvador	May 31, 1937		3.6	20.0
Costa Rica	Aug. 2, 1937		5.0	82.3
Czechoslovakia 4/	Apr. 16, 1938		19.9	563.4
Total, trade agree-				
ment countries		759.8	1,224.8	61.2
Total, nonagreement				
countries		1,448.0	1,996.8	37.9
Total, all countrie	S	2,207.8	3,221.6	45.9

^{1/} Including reexports.

^{2/} Comprising 17 countries with which agreements become effective early enough to be of importance in the 1937-38 average of exports.

^{3/} These figures include Surinam (Dutch Guiana).

^{4/} U.S. Statistics show only a small portion of actual exports to these countries as most of the exports are transshipped through other countries.

^{5/} Calculated on basis of fuller figures in thousands.

Source: "Commerce Reports", February 18, 1939.

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